AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for extracting volatile constituents, comprising:

a sample vessel for containing a sample of a solid containing volatile constituents, a gas feeding device for filling the sample vessel with inert gas, a thermostatic chamber for containing said sample vessel and keeping said sample contained in said sample vessel at a temperature at which said sample is not thermally decomposed, a canister ~~having an inactivated inside and~~ depressurized in advance, and a valve for selectively connecting said canister to said sample vessel contained in said thermostatic chamber and kept at said temperature, thereby depressurizing said sample vessel and collecting constituents evaporating from said sample due to the depressurization, in said canister with said inert gas.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for extracting volatile constituents according to claim 1, wherein said gas feeding device is designed to replace atmospheric air in said sample vessel with said inert gas, and said canister is depressurized to about 1×10^{2}Pa in advance to collect all the constituents that evaporate from the sample when said canister is selectively connected to said sample vessel.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of extracting volatile constituents, comprising the steps of filling a sample vessel containing a sample of a solid containing volatile constituents with inert gas to thereby replace atmospheric air in said sample vessel with said inert gas and keeping said sample at a temperature at which said sample is not thermally decomposed, and thereafter connecting a canister ~~having an inactivated inside and~~ depressurized in advance to said sample vessel in which said sample is kept at the temperature at which said sample is not thermally decomposed, to thereby depressurize said sample vessel and collect constituents evaporating from said sample due to the depressurization, in said canister with said inert gas.

4. (Original) The method of extracting volatile constituents according to claim 3, wherein He or N_2 is used as said inert gas.

5. (Canceled).